Claims

1. Recombinant vector system comprising at least one copy of a nucleic acid encoding the antigen-binding site of the heavy chain of an antibody comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the CDR3 region (designated H3), or/and encoding the CDR2 region (designated H2), or/and encoding the CDR1 region (designated H1), as shown in Figure 1 or/and Figure 6, and at least one copy of a nucleic acid encoding the antigen-binding site of the light chain of an antibody comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the CDR3 region (designated L3), or/and encoding the CDR2 region (designated L2), or/and encoding the CDR1 region (designated L1), as shown in Figure 1 or/and Figure 6, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the antigen-binding site of the heavy chain and of the light chain have separate expression control sequences.

2. Recombinant vector system according to claim 1 comprising a first recombinant vector comprising at least one copy of a nucleic acid encoding the antigen-binding site of the heavy chain and a second recombinant vector comprising at least one copy of a nucleic acid encoding the antigen-binding site of the light chain.

3. Recombinant vector system according to claim 1 wherein at least one copy of the nucleic acid encoding the antigen-binding site of the heavy chain and of the light chain are located on the same recombinant vector.

4. Method for the recombinant production of a polypeptide having an antigen-binding site comprising:

   (a) providing a recombinant vector system according to any one of claims 1-3,

(b) introducing the recombinant vector system into a suitable host cell,

(c) culturing the host cell under suitable conditions in a medium whereby an expression of the polypeptide takes place and

(d) obtaining the expressed product from the medium and/or the host cell.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.

6. The method of claims 4 or 5, wherein between steps (a) and (b) a modification of the vector system takes place wherein the modification substantially does not alter the amino acid sequence of the antigen-binding site of the polypeptide to be expressed.

7. The method of any one of claims 4-6 further comprising preparing a diagnostic or therapeutic agent from the expressed product.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the expressed product is coupled to a diagnostic marker.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the expressed product is coupled to a cytotoxic agent.

10. The method of claims 4-9, wherein the expressed product is selected from antibodies and antibody fragments.